

OBITUARY

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Sir DOUGLAS HUBBLE

KBE, MD, FRCP

Professor Sir Douglas Hubble, emeritus professor of paediatrics and child health and formerly dean of the faculty of medicine, University of Birmingham, died on 6 November. He was 80.

Douglas Vernon Hubble was born on 25 December 1900 and received his medical education at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, qualifying with the conjoint diploma in 1924 and graduating MB, BS two years later. After holding early resident appointments at St Bartholomew's Hospital he practised medicine for a time at Derby, where he became physician to the Derbyshire Hospital for Sick Children in 1932, to the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary in 1942, and to the Derby City Hospital. He proceeded MD in 1934, took the MRCP in 1950, and four years later was elected FRCP. In 1958 he was appointed professor of paediatrics and child health in the University of Birmingham. He was appointed dean of the faculty of medicine at the university in 1963 in succession to Professor A L d'Abreu. In October 1968 he retired, and in 1969 the University of Birmingham conferred on him the title of emeritus professor and he was elected a life member of the court of governors. In 1969 he was recruited for two years by the Ministry of Overseas Development as dean of the faculty of medicine at Haile Selassie I University in Addis Ababa.

A member of the BMA, Sir Douglas was chairman of the Derby division from 1946 to 1952, a member of the Representative Body in 1946 and 1947, and vice-president of the section on child health at the annual meeting of the Association in 1958. He was elected to the council of the Royal College of Physicians from 1960 to 1962. President of the paediatrics section of the Royal Society of Medicine in 1956, he served on the executive committee of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland from 1957 to 1960. He served as a member of the British Pharmacopoeia Commission from 1958 to 1968.

Sir Douglas lectured widely in Britain as well as overseas. During his career he held lectureships at the universities of Edinburgh, Birmingham, and Manchester; at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, and the Johns Hopkins University; and at the Royal College of Physicians, the Canadian Medical Association, and the Society of Apothecaries of London. He was awarded the James Spence gold medal of the British Paediatric Association in 1970 and the Dawson Williams prize in paediatrics (jointly) of the BMA in 1971, being Osler orator of the Royal College of Physicians of London in 1974. A member of the clinical research board of the Medical Research Council from 1962 to 1966, he was chairman of the Council for Investigation of Fertility Control from 1963 to 1968. He was a member of the tropical medicine research board of the Medical Research Council from 1965 to 1969

and of the General Medical Council over the same period. In 1966 he was appointed CBE, and in 1971 KBE.

Sir Douglas's research interests and publications were chiefly in endocrinology, and disorders of growth were a particular interest. Outside medicine and paediatrics he was well known for his interest in literature. He was a member of the Johnson Club, and was president of the Johnson Society of Lichfield in 1956.

He married in 1928 Marie Arnott Bryce, who died earlier this year. He is survived by his three daughters.

K S THOM

MB, CHB, DA

Dr K S Thom, formerly consultant anaesthetist at the Newport group of hospitals, died suddenly on 4 October. He was 74.

Kenneth Stevenson Thom was born on 2 July 1907 and educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham. He received his medical education at Birmingham University. After graduating in 1929 he did various house jobs in the Birmingham area before settling in general practice in Tredegar, Gwent. He joined the RAMC soon after the outbreak of war and took part in the D-Day landings in Normandy. During his stay in the army he became interested in anaesthetics, and he took the DA in 1945. After the war he returned to Tredegar and with the advent of the NHS became a full-time consultant anaesthetist, giving up his general practice somewhat reluctantly since he had made so many friends in the area.

Ken was a kind, modest, and gentle person who did much to set up a good and happy anaesthetic department at Newport. He was always ready to help at any time of day or night. He was a member of the Association of Anaesthetists. He took an interest in all forms of charity work, and after retirement did much voluntary work for the Red Cross and Womens' Aid. His main hobby was golf, and he was a popular member of his club and a past captain.

Ken was primarily a family man and took pleasure in the fact that his children had all succeeded in their chosen careers. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and by two sons and a daughter and their children. His eldest son is a consultant bacteriologist.—JWT.

F SAYER

MB, CHB

Dr F Sayer, a general practitioner in Cannock, Staffordshire, died on 7 May aged 49.

Frank Sayer was born in 1931 in Heath Hayes, Staffordshire, and was educated at King Edward's School, Lichfield. He graduated from Birmingham medical school in 1955. After house jobs at Little Bromwich Hospital in Birmingham he served in the RAMC and

after a short appointment as skin specialist to the East Anglia District became medical officer to the Suffolk Regiment at Bury St Edmunds. On leaving the army he was a trainee assistant at Teignmouth before returning to his native Staffordshire to take a partnership in Cannock. He became a single-handed practitioner a few years later and until his death was much loved in the local community. His older patients particularly regarded him as a friend as well as a medical adviser, and his many friends and colleagues will miss his companionship and humour.

Dr Sayer was a keen member of the Rotary, whose motto of "service above self" exemplified his attitude to life. After a long illness and several operations, which he bore with courage and humour, he died at home surrounded by his family and friends as he would have wished. He will be greatly missed by his wife Margaret and their family. His pride in their three sons, who have all entered medical school, was well justified, their oldest son graduating at Aberdeen a month after his father's death.—RT.

BRM and MAM write: Our family knew and loved Frank Sayer for 20 years. He was regarded as a first-class general practitioner, not just because of his supreme skill but because of his belief that the care of patients came first. Our respect for him increased over the years because of his dedication to his work, and all our colleagues marvelled that he could sustain his tremendous efforts for his patients when he knew that he was mortally ill and was in fact in great pain.

A N CURRIE

DSC, MB, CHB

Dr A N Currie, formerly a deputy senior inspector of factories, died peacefully in Edinburgh on 27 October at the age of 85.

Archibald Neil Currie was born in Port Charlotte, Islay, and received his education there and later at Allan Glen's School and Glasgow University. A Gaelic scholar, he loved the language and literature of the Highlands and published a volume of his own poetry, *Hebrid Echoes*. He worked for several years as a biochemist at the Royal Cancer Hospital in Glasgow and wrote extensively on the biochemical aspects of malignant disease. In 1930 he joined HM Medical Inspectorate of Factories. From then on his knowledge and interest in chemistry were applied to study of the toxicology of many industrial processes. During successive appointments in Sheffield, Glasgow, and London he produced important reports on tumours of the bladder and their relation to exposure to chemical carcinogens encountered in the dyestuffs industry and among rubber and munition workers exposed to aniline dyes and 5-chloro-ortho-toluidine. This led to improvements in working conditions for those exposed to risk and to legislation relating to compensation.

Dr Currie retired in 1957 and moved to Edinburgh, where his wife Dr Janette Currie survives him.—ABMC.

K L S WARD

MB, CHB

Dr K L S Ward, who until his retirement was a general practitioner in Brasted, Kent, died on 26 October.

Kenneth Laugharne Stanley Ward, "young Dr Ken," was born in Brasted in 1894 and soon began accompanying his father on his rounds in a pony and trap. Educated at Epsom and Edinburgh University, Kenneth broke his studies in 1915 to serve as a medical officer in the Navy. After graduating he worked at the Edinburgh City Fever Hospital and then joined his father in general practice in the early 1920s. Time brought its changes and Dr Kenneth was always enthusiastic to try something new, but the second world war found him on his own with a greatly increased work load. He developed the habit of rising at 5 am and working through until nearly midnight, and continued thus until well after normal retiring age. This routine was no trial to him, for he was possessed with extraordinary energy and enthusiasm; he truly enjoyed every minute of his work, so much so that he never took a holiday or indeed a night or weekend off work, Saturdays and Sundays being normal working days so far as he was concerned. Nothing was ever too much trouble. He finally retired in 1978 at the age of 84.

Dr Ward's many devoted patients will remember him for his kindness to them, his mercurial nature, and his many eccentricities. Stories about him abound, sufficient to fill a book. In all his work he received the constant and devoted help of his wife Hattie, who died before him. He is survived by his two sons and eight grandchildren.—IMR.

Lieutenant-Colonel

J K SUGDEN

TD, LMSSA, DA, FFARCS, FFRACS,
late RAMC(Ret)

Lieutenant-Colonel J K Sugden, a specialist anaesthetist, died on 15 September. He was 65.

John Kenneth Sugden was commissioned to the 7th Duke of Wellington's Regiment in 1937 and served in the British Expeditionary Force in France and the United Kingdom until released to complete his medical studies in 1942. He recommenced duties with the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1944, when he began his long career in anaesthetics. He served in north Africa, the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot, Gibraltar, and the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Millbank, where he attained specialist anaesthetist status. He then spent two years' study leave in the Nuffield department of anaesthetics at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, after which he served as officer in charge of anaesthetics departments with the Far Eastern Land Forces, the British Commonwealth Forces Korea, and the Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot. He retired from regular service in June 1964 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Subsequently he worked as a specialist anaesthetist in private practice at Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia, and as visiting specialist at the Rockhampton Base Hospital. During his career he was awarded the first Montefiore prize in

military surgery and radiology in 1952 and the Leishman memorial prize in 1963.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sugden was inventive and had a notable capacity for original thought. While at Oxford he was closely associated with the development of the Epstein and Macintosh ether inhaler and Oxford bellow. He originated the design of the CAPE lightweight foot-operated suction pump in the early 1960s and while serving with the airborne forces was closely associated with the development of air evacuation techniques for casualties and of transportable operating theatres. He was the first specialist anaesthetist in Rockhampton, and his experience proved invaluable in the advancement of anaesthetics and intensive care services in the city. He was a man dedicated to anaesthetics who adhered strictly to the high principles of his profession. He is survived by his wife and two sons.—AMMcD.

P BHANDARI

MB, BS, MFCM, DPH

Dr P Bhandari, who was district community physician in south Camden, London, died suddenly on 4 October. He was 56.

Paul Bhandari was born in Islington but spent much of his boyhood in Devon, his mother's home county, where he attended Bideford Grammar School. He trained at St Bartholomew's Hospital, graduating in 1950, and then held junior medical posts there and at St Mary's Hospital. During his national service he was regimental medical officer to the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, seeing active service in Malaya. He turned to public health in 1956, taking his DPH in 1960 and receiving the Tanner memorial prize of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene as the best student of his year. He also completed a particularly perceptive study of medical and social policy in rehousing. In 1961 he took up a post in the part of London he was to serve with distinction for 20 years, becoming deputy medical officer of health to St Pancras; he then moved to St Pancras Holborn and Hampstead and finally to the borough of Camden, still as deputy medical officer of health, under Dr Wilfred Harding. He was appointed district community physician for south Camden on the reorganisation of the Health Service in 1974 and held this post until his death.

Dr Bhandari's major interest was environmental health and the control of communicable diseases, and his knowledge was widely recognised by his colleagues. He had a special concern for the problems of old people, showing great understanding of their needs. For many years he was a member of the council of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene, taking full part in its committees, conferences, and educational work.

Dr Bhandari's colleagues will greatly miss his expert advice and also his quiet and penetrating humour, which eased many a tense moment in meetings. He is survived by his wife Patricia.—HWSF.

F ROBINSON

MB, CHB, FRCS

Mr F Robinson, a plastic surgeon, died on 13 October aged 64. He was one of Manchester's most eminent surgeons.

Frank Robinson was the son of a general practitioner in Bolton, and his family had

included doctors in each generation from 1800. He graduated in medicine from Manchester University in 1940 and did his military service at Aldershot and subsequently at the Emergency Medical Service Hospital in Baguley, where as a captain in the RAMC he acquired his lifelong interest in reconstructive surgery. After the war he returned to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he worked for Wilson Hey, F H Bentley, and Harry Platt, and after passing the fellowship in 1949 he returned to plastic surgery with Andrew McDowall and Randell Champion at Wythenshawe Hospital, where he remained until the plastic surgery unit moved to Withington Hospital in 1969.

Frank was peculiarly well suited to his work. He had an obsessional character and was unable to accept the second rate. His technical ability was of the highest order, and he was meticulous in all that he did. He had prodigious energy and wrote on many topics, but he will be best remembered for his work on primary bone grafting in cleft palates. His critical observation and painstaking record keeping over 40 years facilitated his work: he kept a detailed diary in which each night he wrote up every operation that he had done that day. He became chairman of the Charles O'Neill club, president of the Manchester Surgical Society, a council member of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, and a founder member of the British Association of Cosmetic Surgeons, having long recognised the need for and publicised the value of aesthetic surgery.

Frank had the ability to make people feel better simply for having met him: everyone with whom he came in contact felt that that meeting was for Frank the only important moment of his day. Occasionally he could be startling in his forthright condemnation of views that opposed his own, especially when these conflicted with his desire to see a reduction of waste and suffering. Paradoxically, his arguments only increased others' respect for him, possibly because they were so sincere. He was a rapid worker and a rapid speaker and fond of fast cars. In his youth he had been an enthusiastic dancer, and he retained his interest in music to the end of his life, in his latter years teaching himself to play the electronic organ. He is survived by his wife and four children.—JL.

E R REES

MD, FRCOG

DVM-J writes: I should like to pay further tribute to the life of Robert Rees (obituary, 7 November, p 1269) by reflecting for a few moments on his personal qualities. Highly qualified in his profession he certainly was, but he did not allow his qualifications to alter the loving and loyal nature he had been born with. A more trustworthy, sensitive, perceptive friend would be difficult to find. To find fault with another person was not in his character, and he would always laugh off another person's shortcomings with a well-thought-out excuse. After a highly successful professional career he attended Harrow writer's circle, where he was an active member of the group. By reading his stories one somehow knew Robert more intimately, for they concerned gentle, thinking people in a harsher world. In his latter days he once remarked, "Just give me 10 minutes' more time." His "10 minutes' more time" was taken from him, but in his active, fulfilled life he enriched the lives of many people.